

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1151

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT:BELFAST NEWSPAPER SEES POPULAR TILT TOWARD COALITION

1. BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS JANUARY 4 POLLED READERS ON THEIR PREFERENCE FOR FRAMEWORK DEVOLVED GOVERNMENT NORTHERN IRELAND. RESULTS CARRIED JANUARY 11 FOLLOW BY PERCENTAGE:

(A) MAJORITY RULE	28.73
(B) PARTNERSHIP	26.83
(C) EMERGENCY COALITION	21.41
(D) UNITED IRELAND	13.82
(E) INTEGRATION WITH UK	8.40
(F) CONTINUED DIRECT RULE	.81

2. MAJORITY RULE FAVORED ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER PARTNERSHIP WHILE EMERGENCY COALITION AS ADVOCATED BY VANGUARD WILLIAM CRAIG RECEIVED RESPECTABLE SUPPORT. NEWSPAPER ASSUMES THAT SHOULD ULSTER VOTERS BE CONFRONTED WITH THE CHOICE BETWEEN MAJORITY RULE AND EMERGENCY COALITION GOVERNMENT, MAJORITY WOULD BACK COALITION GOVERNMENT SINCE THOSE IN FAVOR PARTNERSHIP WOULD ALSO SUPPORT COALITION MAKING COMBINED TOTAL OF 48.24 PERCENT. THOSE WHO WANTED MAJORITY RULE WOULD PROBABLY BE JOINED BY THOSE FAVORING TOTAL INTEGRATION AND SUPPORTERS OF CONTINUED DIRECT RULE FOR A COMBINED TOTAL

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OF 37.94 PERCENT. SUNDAY NEWS SUGGESTED THAT THOSE WHO SUPPORTED

UNITED IRELAND WOULD PROBABLY ABSTAIN FROM VOTE BETWEEN
COALITION AND MAJORITY RULE.

3. THIS IS FIRST KNOWN ATTEMPT SAMPLE ATTITUDES TOWARD
EMERGENCY COALITION SINCE PROPOSAL EMERGED LATE IN CONVENTION
PROCEEDINGS. ACCORDING TO SUNDAY NEWS EDITOR, THERE ABOUT
1000 RESPONSES TO POLL WITH MOST LETTERS REPRESENTING
FOUR OR FIVE FAMILY MEMBERS. CONGEN CAN NOT JUDGE ACCURACY
OR VALIDITY OF POLL. WE NOTE HOWEVER THAT ACCORDING EDITOR,
90 PERCENT OF VOTES RECEIVED LAST 3 DAYS LAST WEEK AFTER
SECTARIAN MASSACRES AND THAT THOSE FAVORING SOME FORM OF
"ULSTER" FORMULA REPRESENT ALMOST 77 PERCENT OF THOSE RESPONDING.
SPICER

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